

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NEA-10 NIC-01 OMB-01 IO-12

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 EB-11 COME-00 RSR-01

/146 W

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R 111140 Z MAY 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1933

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 0317

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PBOR RH MZ

SUBJ: TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN RHODESIA AND MOZAMBIQUE

REF: BLANTYRE 678

1. PRESUMABLY LOCATIONS MENTIONED BY PRESIDENT (PARA 2 REFTEL) ARE: " INYANGA" IS MOUNT INHANGA (15 DEGREES 38 MINUTES SOUTT, 32 DEGREES 35 MINUTES EAST), WELL TO NORTH OF ZAMBEZI RIVER; " PUNGU GORGE" IS EITHER RELATED TO MOUNT PURONGOE (16 DEGREES 9 MINUTES SOUTH, 32 DEGREES EAST), JUST NORTH OF RHODESIAN BORDER, OR PUNGOE RIVER, WHICH CROSSES INTO RHODESIA SOUTH OF VILA GOUVEIA IN MOUNTAINOUS TERRITORY.

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WM RE PARA 3 REFTEL, ARTICLE IN APRIL 30 RHODESIA HERALD, ALSO STATES FRONTIER SMITH HAD IN MIND WAS THAT WITH MOZAMBIQUE RATHER THAN ZAMBIA. ARTICLE STATES " FOR SOME TIME NOW IT HAS BEEN KNOWN THAT THE TERRORISTS HAVE ESTABLISHED

BASE CAMPS IN THE REMOTE BORDER REGIONS IN MOZAMBIQUE,"
AND ADDS " THIS FACT PINPOINTS THE NEED FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN PORTUGUESE AND RHODESIAN FORCES IN ERADICATING THE BASES--
OR FOR PORTUGUESE PERMISSION TO ALLOW RHODESIAN FORCES TO
CROSS THE BORDER EITHER IN HOT PURSUIT OF TERRORISTS OR WITH
THE PREMEDITATED INTENTION OF WIPING OUT THE BASES."

3. PORTUGUESE MILITARY SPOKESMEN HERE REMAIN ADAMANT THAT
NO FOREIGN TROOPS WILL BE ALLOWED TO FIGHT INSIDE MOZAMBIQUE
EXCEPT FOR RHODESIANS OPERATING IN HOT PURSUIT. IN LAST
MONTHS MILITARY BRIEFING OF CONSULAR CORPS (LOURENCO MARQUES
A-63) SPOKESMAN STRESSED THIS POLICY MAINTAINED BECAUSE
PORTUGAL DOES NOT WISH PROVIDE ANY EXCUSE FOR FRELIMO TO USE
FOREIGN " VOLUNTEERS" OR MERCENARIES. SINCE PORTUGUESE HOPES
FOR GRADUAL DRYING UP OF FRELIMO RECRUITING SOURCES, PREVENTION
OF SUCH ESCALATION IS A MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE CONCERN
AND NOT LIKELY BE JEOPARDIZED LIGHTLY. FURTHERMORE, TO PERMIT
RHODESIAN ACTION AGAINST GUERRILLA BASES INSIDE MOZAMBIQUE
WOULD CONSTITUTE ADMISSION OF WEAKNESS WHICH PORTUGUESE, AS
BEST WE CAN TELL, DO NOT FEEL. PORTUGUESE GENERALLY BELIEVE
THEY KNOW GREAT DEAL MORE ABOUT COUNTERINSURGENCY THAN DO
RHODESIANS/ SOUTH AFRICANS, DESPITE LATTERS' FREQUENT THINLY
VEILED SUGGESTIONS THEY COULD RUN MOZAMBIQUE WAR BETTER THAN
" SLACK," " INEFFICIENT" PORTUGUESE.

4. WE THEREFORE EXPECT RHODESIANS TO CONTINUE PRESS FOR
RIGHT TO INTERVENE MORE DIRECTLY IN MOZAMBIQUE, AND PORTUGAL
TO CONTINUE TO RESIST PRESSURE. THIS DOES NOT, OF COURSE,
RULE OUT CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR JOINT OPERATIONS SHOULD
WAR TAKE MAJOR TURN FOR WORSE; ASKED ABOUT SUCH POSSIBILITY
AT BRIEFING, MILITARY SPOKESMAN QUIPPED THAT THIS QUESTION
WOULD BE BETTER DIRECTED TO COMMANDER IN CHIEF.
VAN OSS

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TAGS: PBOR RH MZ
To: STATE INFO BLANTYRE
CAPE TOWN
DAR ES SALAAM
LISBON
LONDON
LUSAKA
PRETORIA

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